

Appln. No. 10/812,059
Preliminary Amendment submitted May 2, 2005

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 02418.0884

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A racket for ball games including a frame (4) having a racket head (6) and a handle portion (10) connected thereto the racket head via a heart region (8), ~~and being~~
wherein the frame is formed of a hollow profile formed by winding a plurality of layers, wherein at least one dampening layer is included on or in one or both of the racket head (6) and/or in the heart region (8), and
wherein the frame (4) comprises at least one dampening layer (12) ~~is being~~ wrapped between the plurality of layers forming the hollow profile.
2. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of dampening layers (12) are arranged in pairs and essentially symmetrical with respect to the longitudinal axis of the racket (2).
3. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 1-~~or~~ 2, wherein a dampening layer (12a) is provided in the area between four o'clock and six o'clock and a further dampening layer (12b) between six o'clock and eight o'clock on the racket head (6).
4. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 3, wherein a dampening layer (12a) is provided at about five o'clock and a further dampening layer (12b) at about seven o'clock on the racket head (6).
5. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 4, wherein a dampening layer (12c) is provided in the area between one o'clock and three

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o'clock and a further dampening layer (12e) between nine o'clock and eleven o'clock on the racket head (6).

6. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 5~~, wherein a dampening layer (12d) is provided at about 2 o'clock and a further dampening layer (12e) at about ten o'clock on the racket head (6).

7. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 6~~, wherein the dampening layer (12) is formed of a material that is one or both of a shock absorbing material and/or a vibration absorbing material.

8. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 7~~, wherein the at least one material of the dampening layer (12) is formed of a material comprising includes synthetic rubber, in particular polyisoprene, styrenebutadiene rubber, polychloroprene or urethane rubber, or a mixture of natural rubber and synthetic rubber.

9. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 8~~, wherein the material of the at least one dampening layer (12) has a thickness ranging between 0.05 mm and 0.3 mm, ~~preferably between 0.15 mm and 0.25 mm, more preferably a thickness of about 0.2 mm.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 9~~, wherein the width of the material of the at least one dampening layer (12) is dimensioned such that the dampening layer extends over ~~at least one, preferably two or more~~ winding(s) in the hollow profile.

11. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 10~~, wherein the material forming the at least one dampening layer (12) has a width ranging

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between 30 mm and 150 mm, ~~preferably between 70 mm and 140 mm, more preferably between 80 mm and 130 mm.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 11, wherein the at least one dampening layer (42) has a length (L) ranging between 20 mm and 150 mm, ~~preferably between 40 mm and 110 mm.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 12, wherein the at least one dampening layer (42) is provided in the form of a plurality of strips (20).

14. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 13, wherein the strips (20) extend essentially parallel with respect to each other.

15. (Currently Amended) The racket according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~, wherein each strip (20) has a length (4) ranging between 3 mm and 10 mm, ~~preferably between 5 mm and 7 mm.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 15, wherein the dampening material has a Shore A hardness greater than 30, ~~preferably between 65 and 75.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The racket according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 16, wherein the dampening layer is provided under an angle ranging between 0° and 45°, ~~preferably between 5° and 15° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the frame.~~

18. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a racket, ~~in particular according to any one of claims 1 to 17~~, comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a ~~windable~~ layer material that is windable;

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(b) placing a web-shaped dampening material onto the layer material, such that the materials are at least partially overlapping;

(c) winding the at least partially overlapping layer material and dampening material to form a tube; and

(d) forming a frame (4) consisting of a frame profile made of the tube, wherein the frame comprises a racket head (6) and a handle portion (10) being connected therewith with the racket head via a heart region (8);

wherein the frame (4) comprises at least one dampening layer (42) of the dampening material at or in one or both of the racket head (6) and/or in the heart region (8), the at least one said dampening layer (42) being wrapped into hollow-profile the layers forming the hollow profile.

19. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 18, wherein the dampening material is placed in such a manner that a plurality of dampening layers (42) are provided in pairs and essentially symmetrical with respect to the longitudinal axis of the racket (2).

20. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~, wherein a plurality of strips (20) of the dampening material together form the dampening layer (42).

21. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 20, wherein the strips (20) are arranged so as to essentially extend parallel with respect to each other.

22. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 18 ~~46 to 24~~, wherein the dampening material is wound under an angle ranging between 0° and 45°, ~~preferably between 5° and 15°~~ with respect to the longitudinal direction of the frame.

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23. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims claim~~ 18 to 22, wherein the frame (4) is molded in a molding press under the influence of pressure and temperature.